

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Special Education Visual Specialist, Licensure, grades P-4 and/or 4-12
Additional Licensure Plan
(areas 232, 234)

Name: _____ S.S.#: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

Email address: _____ County: _____ School District: _____

School districts seeking to employ educators to teach out of field (not in the field in which the educator is currently licensed) will use the Additional Licensure Plan (ALP) to meet that need. School districts may use the ALP process to address unusual emergency situations when licensed educators are asked to teach in areas/levels for which they are not licensed. School districts may not exceed the three-year limit without possible penalty. **THIS AREA MAY NOT BE ADDED BY TESTING ONLY.**

Eligibility Guidelines. Educators must meet the following conditions:

- possess a standard Arkansas educator license,
- seek to add this area of licensure or endorsement, and
- be assigned to teach in this area rather than the one for which they are currently licensed.

Educators assigned to teach in this field must complete an approved performance-based program of study and pass the required assessment(s) for the new licensure area. The additional area of licensure will be added to the credential when all licensure requirements are successfully completed and application is submitted bearing the signature of the university's Licensure Officer, verifying completion of the program of study. Test score(s) and official transcript must be attached.

Required Assessments:

- **Praxis II: Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications, test #0354 Minimum score required: 151**
- **Praxis II: Special Education: Teaching Student with Visual Impairments, test #0282 Minimum score required: 163**

NOTE: Test at a Glance (TAAG) study guide booklets are available on line from www.ets.org/praxis.

A qualified applicant for this license must enroll and be an active candidate at a college or university that offers an approved Vision Specialist special education program of study to obtain knowledge and skills in the following competency areas:

Recommended Content Background:

- Understand exceptionalities,
- Legal and social issues of special education and teaching students with visual impairments,
- Delivery of services to students with disabilities, specifically visual impairment,
- Curriculum modification for students with disabilities, including general and special curricula, and development and implementation of comprehensive IEPs with collaboration of team members,
- Instruction modification for students with visual disabilities,
- Assessment modification for students with disabilities, including basic assessment terminology, legal provisions and ethical principles, screening, pre-referral, referral, and eligibility procedures, and uses and limitation of assessment instruments, specifically for students with visual impairments,
- Managing the learning environment,
- Professional roles/issues/literature for educators of students with visual disabilities.

Recommended Experience Background:

- Study of multiple impairments, definitions, screening procedures, and recognition of conditions.
- Study and practice with special education laws, policies, and ethical principles regarding behavior management planning and implementation, including the identification of the use of a variety of behavior management strategies that promote the acquisition of appropriate social skills.
- Study and practice with monitoring student progress and adjusting instruction accordingly.
- Practice with ways to select and implement the format and components of effective instruction, including managing behavior, and working with parents.
- Study of specific visual disabilities, structure and function of the eye, and general characteristics of students with visual impairments, types of program and referrals.
- Study and practice of classroom organization management, including selection of appropriate physical-social environment for learning, including impairing conditions as they affect students' lives and development.
- Study and experience with legal consideration and professional ethics related to special education and visual impairments and ethical constraints that apply to programs for visually impaired students.
- Study and practice on how to incorporate technology in delivery of specialized instruction.
- Practice the role of an educator in implementation of daily living skills program for students with visual impairments and assessment of students with visual impairments, including program planning and instructional methodology.
- Experience with the collaborative skills necessary to assist individuals with disabilities, their families, and paraprofessionals in becoming active participants in the educational process.

Employing School District Guidelines:

- The employing district will document the need to assign an educator out of field.
- The employing school district superintendent shall submit a waiver request and completed ALP form to the ADE Office of Educator Licensure ***within 30 days of the out-of-field teaching assignment***, thus documenting the above statement.
- The employing school district understands that an educator working under this ALP shall make adequate yearly progress (as specified in the Rules Governing Educator Licensure) each school year that the educator is employed in the out-of-area assignment.
- The employing district understands that an educator will have no more than three school years from the first date he/she was employed in the out-of-area assignment by any district to meet full licensure requirements for the additional licensure or endorsement being sought. A waiver request must be submitted school each year the educator is employed out-of-area.

School District Assurances:

I certify that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Superintendent: _____ Date: _____

Educator ALP Guidelines:

Educators shall make adequate yearly progress (as specified in the Rules Governing Educator Licensure) each school year that the educator is employed in the out-of-area assignment. If the educator EITHER leaves the ALP position OR doesn't complete the requirements within three consecutive years, he/she will NOT be eligible for employment again under an ALP for this area of licensure.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____ S.S.# _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

Arkansas Department of Education
Office of Educator Licensure
Four State Capitol Mall, Room 106 B
Little Rock, AR 72201-1071

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Fax: 501.682.4898
www.arkansased.org